

Okolona Messenger.

FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE SUNNY SOUTH.

ABE STEINBERGER & SONS.

\$1.00 A Year in Advance.

OUR AIM: To Tell the Truth, Obey the Law, and Make Money.

OUR MOTTO: Talk for Home, Work for Home, and Fight for Home.

VOL. 30.

OKOLONA, MISS., WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 1902.

NO. 29.

AN UNUSUAL MOVEMENT.



HE employment of women is increasing so steadily and the range of their occupation is being so rapidly widened that it has become very rare to here of woman losing favor in any line of endeavor or employment.

No small degree of surprise has therefore resulted from the publication of an Atlantic Coast Line order to the effect that all women in the service of that company will be discharged on the first of next August.

Of course a decree of this character does not explain to the public or its victims the reason for its issuance, but if the Atlantic Coast Line has found that the women whom it has employed have proved inefficient, or objectionable for any other reason, that company has made an unprecedented discovery.

The number of women employed by railroads, as well as corporations of almost every other character, has increased immensely in recent years. Hosts of women are now successfully engaged in many professions, occupations and trades which were formerly shut out against them, though there is, perhaps still not one in which women are paid as much as men for an equal quantity and quality of work of any kind.

But women are just as sure to receive, sooner or later, full recognition and equal pay for the value of their toil as that they have already won their way into occupations from which they were excluded by silly and cruel prejudice long after nobody dared to try to reason against giving them a chance to compete with men in lines where they had proved themselves capable.

Dr. Samuel Johnson flattered nobody, and yet he said a hundred and fifty years ago, when it was considered exceedingly rash and almost criminal to give a woman a chance for a liberal education, that men would not be so stoutly opposed to opening the avenues of learning and exertions fully to women but for their conviction that women would excel them in the acquirement and application of information if a fair showing were only given them.

The world has grown sick and tired of hearing the twaddle about woman remaining in her "true sphere," when that sphere is to be described by men without consulting woman, or even allowing them to protest the reason against its limitations. No one railroad, not all the railroads on earth combined, can stay the righteous liberalization of women in business, as well as thought.

Women have fought their way over difficulties greater than any that now confronts their continuing march to still fuller participation in the world's work.

Their victories of the future will be won more easily than those of the past.

There is no safer assurance that the world is growing wiser and better than this growing conviction that just and intelligent mankind holds out.

The stars in their courses did not more certainly or more victoriously fight for Sisera than the conscience and judgment of humanity are now contending for full justice to women.

INVITED BACK HOME.



HE south is not only by far the most American part of the United States, but has contributed immensely to the increase of population in states, north and west.

There are in the United States 15,758,318 persons who were born in the South. Of this number 1,347,121 are living outside of this section. The Southern Farm Magazine in its July issue expresses the hope that this host of "exiles" will come home, every one of them bringing with him or her four or five natives of other parts of the country to enjoy the benefits flowing from the great development of the south, to which they would materially contribute.

There is hardly a state in the north or west that is not indebted to the south for citizens who have helped its growth in the essentials of progress and prosperity. Many of these have become prominent in the political, commercial, industrial and professional life of their adopted communities. They have more honors, influence and wealth there and we fear that they will not be moved back to Dixie.

But a great number of them have returned. Others are coming almost every day as the realization grows upon them that the south is the best part of the country and that they made a mistake in leaving it.

Immigration from the north and west to the south is meantime increasing steadily. From those regions we are winning many citizens who will be of immense benefit to the development of the natural resources which are to be found in the south in unrivalled quality and variety. This is the sort of immigration that the south wants and she should encourage it by all means possible.

The south does not desire the average immigration that pours out upon Ellis Island in this latter day. It brings a population that is not adaptable to American ideas and aims, social and political.

It is the good fortune of the south that these elements drift in all directions from their landing place except southward.

The immigrants who are coming to cast their lots

with ours and join us in working out a greater destiny for this rich region are almost entirely seasoned American citizens, either native here or representative of the best quality of foreign manhood and womanhood, which have strengthened our institutions and increased our wealth and power as a people.

The population of the south will increase in the next ten years in greater proportion than ever before and the bulk of the increase will be of a kind that will be heartily welcome and very largely beneficial to this section.

LIQUOR AS AN INDUSTRY.



HE census bureau has just issued its report, says the New York Mail and Express, on the manufacture of alcoholic liquors for the year ended May 31, 1900. It is the first time this has been made the subject of a special inquiry, but there is material for showing the growth of the industry in ten years. There is

room for differences of opinion as to its economic value. To some it will be a depressing fact that 2,835 establishments were engaged in this line of production, employing a capital of more than \$457,000,000 and turning out produce valued at \$940,000,000. Their feelings will not be greatly mitigated by knowing that it gave employment to 8,158 salaried persons, to whom \$14,391,644 was paid, and 44,417 workmen, who received \$28,005,484 in wages. The cost of materials was something over \$70,500,000, and miscellaneous expense amounted to over \$183,000,000.

There is no doubt about this being a productive industry, and most of its output is for direct consumption, though some may regard the consumption as destructive of industrial forces rather than helpful to them. No account is taken of the capital and labor engaged in trading in the product after it is made, or the money spent for it in excess of what is set down as its "value" at the liquor factories.

Some comfort may be found in the fact that the increase in ten years was almost wholly in malt liquors and that there was an actual decrease in the production of distilled liquors. Of the \$457,000,000 of capital \$415,000,000 was employed in making malt liquors and only \$32,000,000 in distilled, and less than \$10,000,000 in wines. Of the \$340,000,000 worth of product \$237,000,000 was of malt liquors, \$96,000,000 distilled and less than \$7,000,000 vinous. While the capital employed in making ale, beer and porter increased in ten years from \$232,000,000 to \$415,000,000 and the value of the product advanced from \$182,000,000 to \$237,000,000 and there was a considerable increase in the production of wines, there was a diminution of capital in the distilling business from \$32,551,604 to \$31,006,176, and of the value of the product from \$104,197,869 to \$96,798,443. Considering the increase in population there is some encouragement in this, for whatever may be thought of the consumption of intoxicating liquors in general there is no doubt that the worst results come from the use of strong drinks.

While the figures show an increase in consumption which fairly keeps pace with that in population, it is wholly in the lighter beverages, and that probably indicates a wider use of them among people in general rather than a larger use by the same individuals or classes. Per capita here signifies the average for all, including those who drink little or none at all, and even although it increased, it might indicate a spread of moderate indulgence with a lessening of excess. Whether it can be derived from statistics or not, it is an undoubted fact ascertained from experience and observation, that there is year by year a perceptible diminution in the habit of excessive drinking and of the consequences that flow from it. Whether under any circumstances the industry of manufacturing intoxicating liquors is one that it is desirable to see in a flourishing and growing condition is a question upon which economists and social reformers are likely to differ, though moralists will be found meddly on one side.

There is a very general feeling of regret that the white house is to be remodelled. As it stands it is a beautiful structure and it is very doubtful whether the "improvements" of it that have been provided for will really deserve the name. The historic associations that cluster about this home of so many of our presidents give it a value which no construction ever could have bestowed upon it. It is true that the white house is only to be "enlarged, decorated and refurnished," as the authors and apologists of this iconoclastic enterprise, put it, but when their work has been completed we shall know the old white house no more. They are going to spend \$540,000 on the job and a much better use could be found for it. It is undeniable that the president should not be left to the necessity of combining his residence and his office. There is by no means enough room in the white house for such an arrangement and for many reasons the president's home and his workshop should be kept separate and some distance apart, a mile at least. But the present objectionable combination is to be continued, though on a grander and more permanent scale. The historical identity of the white house is to be destroyed and the prospect or privacy for the occupant of the presidency and his family is to be removed for an indefinite time to come. The money to be used upon additions to the white house should have been set apart for building an executive office

building. This plan would have left quite enough room in the white house to satisfy all reasonable requirements of any president. The present white house as it stands is part of the history of the nation's capital. It should be preserved as nearly as possible in its historic form.

The Society of the Cincinnati of Rhode Island is taking up a question about which there has been much discussion from time to time and justly, viz., the anomalous fact the American national hymn, "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," is sung everywhere by citizens of the republic to the tune of "God Save the King." Sentiment only is involved in the matter, but it is good, healthy sentiment, which ought to be recognized and deferred to. He was a wise man who said, "Let me make the songs of the people and who will may make the laws." National airs have their influence on national character; witness the history of the "Marseillaise." It is a singular circumstance that America should so long have lacked a fitting melody for her national hymn. With a view of remedying the matter, the society above referred to offers a gold medal, the value of which is \$500, for an original air or tune adaptable to Dr. Smith's words "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." It is to be hoped that this patriotic action on the part of the society will call forth genius, and secure for America a national air characteristically stirring and sweet.

OUR EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.



IN 1875 the country schools in the South were of value only as a beginning. Since then a considerable advance has been made, but it is not at all sufficient. In some respects we have retrograded. During that quarter of a century the population has increased about 70 per cent., the number of teachers has been doubled, the value of school property has been quadrupled; but the average number of days of attendance has increased only from 93 to 110, and the average annual pay of the teachers has actually decreased from \$173 in 1875 to \$158.75 in 1900. The amount of money expended per capita has increased from 81 cents to \$1.34. Nothing could be more humiliating to us than these figures. Of course we can plead desolation of the war and the blight of reconstruction. After the war the South was for many years an impoverished section. But this excuse cannot be pleaded much longer, and it is our duty to face the facts, and attempt a remedy.

The South is largely an agricultural section, and it is desirable that the farmer should be an intelligent and well-educated man. The school term in the country should be extended. The haphazard way of conducting them should be abandoned. The teachers should be better paid, and thus a better class of teachers secured. Not, only that, but the standards of education should be raised. Mississippi is naturally one of the richest States in the Union, but her resources remain largely undeveloped, and the miserly amount of money spent on common school education is a reproach. In this State the average day's salary paid a teacher is a sum less than is paid an unskilled negro laborer.

Professor Heilprin, of Philadelphia, who has just returned from a careful study of the crater of Mont Pelee and of the terrible destruction and devastation caused by the explosion of the volcano on May 8, is not yet prepared to give his theory of the cause of the eruption. He thinks it is fully established, however, that "the destruction was caused by explosive gases the nature of which is not yet determined." The instantaneous death of the ill-fated inhabitants of St. Pierre resulted, he thinks, from "gaseous asphyxiation, and possibly from a removal of the oxygen from the atmosphere, besides intense heat." The professor said his observation had no bearing upon the theory of a molten mass or seething sea of fire in the interior of the earth; but he is positive that the recent outbreak "was caused by explosive gases, not by superheated steam." Does not this conclusion, taken in connection with the absence of lava or other products of fire, tend to support the theory that the forces which caused this tremendous explosion were purely chemical? To sustain a "fire" in the heart of a volcanic mountain there must be oxygen, and how could this gas, essential to combustion, find its way into that colossal chimney? The secrets of nature's great laboratories in the interior of the earth are not well known; but when one thinks of the reservoirs of oil and of "natural gas," of the deposits of coal, sulphur, salt, asphalt and other materials for the formation of gases of inconceivable explosive force, underlying the crust of the earth, even the unparalleled catastrophe on Martinique may not unreasonably be attributed to some such agency.

The art of laughter should surely be cultivated; in fact, all and everything that leads to joy. The wish to be happy, the love of gladness and beauty, is, I am sure, a thing to be desired; consequently, it is worth a little cultivation. Play is an essential factor in men's lives as work. Philosophers tell us that no man lives his own life until he plays. Work comes from the exigencies of life, from the "mute" of this world, which often push men along very different paths to those they would choose to travel from inclination or capacity. Play is, however, his recreation, and here at his leisure time comes out his whole soul; his power of and choice of play, his greater or lesser necessity of it, to recuperate mind and body from the strain of daily work.

BETTER SEND THEM SOME MISSIONARIES.



LADY editress at Hull, Mass., sends out a discouraging report from that locality so far as young women are concerned, says the Topeka Mail and Breeze. She says that drinking among the young women is on the increase, as is profanity. The young ladies of the first families order up whiskey cocktails and

drink in a style that would put a confirmed bum under the table. She says that these young women swear like troopers and altogether they are, according to her description, a pretty tough outfit.

It is no uncommon thing, she says, for young men of 18 or 20 to come to the fashionable hotel in Hull with their girls and order up lunches that will cost not less than \$20 per couple. A conspicuous feature of these lunches is the liquor, not campaigne altogether, but beer, whiskey and other red-hot drinks.

The fact that these young fellows are able to put up \$20 for lunches shows that they belong to the blooded families or else they are stealing from their employers. Young fellows who are earning their own living and attending to business don't make a habit of putting up \$20 for lunches. The probability is that the boys and girls both, that make up these lunch parties are the descendants of fool parents. The man who will furnish his son money to blow in on \$20 lunches is a fool, no matter how much money he may have.

Evidently the trouble with these young people is too much money and nothing to do. That combination will ruin nearly any young man or young woman on earth.

It is hard luck to be ground down with poverty, but as between that and wealth and idleness we are satisfied that it is better for the young man and young woman to be born poor.

We have noticed that the man, young or middle aged, or the woman, either, who has to attend to business in order to pay running expenses, is apt to be a pretty fair sort of citizen.

The individual who is busy with legitimate business hasn't time to be very tough.

The young man who has to get to business at 7 or 8 o'clock in the morning and is kept busy until 6 in the evening isn't filling his skin with whiskey cocktails, for cocktails and a steady job don't go hand in hand.

The girl who has something to do and who has to do that, as a rule is a pretty fair, well behaved and sensible kind of a young woman.

But turn the average young man and the average young woman loose with nothing on earth to do but enjoy themselves and with all the money they want to spend, and it will be a wonder if the devil doesn't have 'em cinched within 12 months or two years at the outside.

We don't believe that the young women this editress talks about are fair samples of Massachusetts girls. We have seen a few ladies from that state in our time, some of them young, some middle aged and some old, and almost without exception they struck us as ladylike and well behaved. We have also known a good many men who were born and raised in Massachusetts and found them mighty nice, well bred gentlemen, but none of them had been turned loose with all the money they could spend and nothing to do when they were young.

We have always contended that idleness was a greater foe to morality, order and good government than ignorance, yet we put compulsory education laws on our statute books on the theory that society has the right to force its citizens to be educated in order to protect itself against the dangers of ignorance.

Isn't it just as logical to say that the state has the right to protect itself against idleness. The idle man and idle woman are apt to be a menace to society no matter whether the idler is a common, lousy hobo or a proud, rich, lazy loafer.

When Bismarck retired, twelve years ago, Germany was no world Power. She was a country which, in a military sense, was considered pre-eminent in Europe, and which, by reason of the tripartite agreement between her, Austria and Italy, filled a leading position, in a political sense, on the Continent. But a world Power she was not. The very word had not then been coined. It was before the series of startling events that has since transformed the whole situation in the Far East, and has brought Japan and China into the family of nations as potent factors. It was before the Spanish-American War, which in two hemispheres, projected the United States into the very midst of the political arena. There have seldom been ten years in the world's history which have wrought such radical changes of such far-reaching importance, as those since 1892. The world at large has as yet scarcely gained the right focus for viewing those momentous happenings. Next to this country it is Germany that has most largely profited from the new situation.

Should the Secretary of War take favorable action on the official recommendations of the Army Uniform Board the "wearing of the green" thereby necessitated for Uncle Sam's soldier boys may be expected to prove an irresistible inducement for enlisting on the part of young Americans of Irish blood.

There is at least one thing none of us will be able to criticize congress for—for adjourning.